



**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR DAN DEBICELLA**  
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER  
TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

1 LAZYBROOK ROAD  
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT 06484

HARTFORD: (860) 240-8800  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1421  
HOME: (203) 225-0558  
FAX: (860) 240-8306  
EMAIL: Dan.Debicella@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT  
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

**Proposed Bill No. SB-563 – An Act Extending the Moratorium of Realignment of Route 113**  
**Senator Dan Debicella Testimony**  
**March 4, 2009**

Good morning Chairmen DeFronzo and Guerrero, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to testify in favor of Senate Bill #563.

The General Assembly has passed this bill two years in a row as part of our omnibus transportation bill, and I ask you to include it again. The bill prohibits any changes to Route 113 in Stratford without permission from both the towns of Stratford and Bridgeport.

At issue is Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Stratford—a point of contention between Stratford and Bridgeport for over six decades. The airport is owned by Bridgeport, but wholly within Stratford. You can imagine the tensions this creates about anything to do with the airport.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has proposed adding 300 feet of a safety zone to the runway, which would require moving Route 113 (which abuts the airport). This proposal has sparked fierce passion by both proponents and opponents, both of whom have a host of facts and arguments around the specifics of the safety zone.

The problem is that we need a comprehensive solution to Sikorsky Airport. Having one town own an airport in another is a recipe for permanent conflict. Fortunately, Mayor Finch of Bridgeport and Mayor Miron of Stratford are currently negotiating such a permanent solution, and we need to give them time to reach an agreement.

Several options are on the table. One idea is to have Stratford buy the airport from Bridgeport, thus having one entity control the Airport rather than the constant tension between our two towns. Another idea is to have regional ownership of the airport between area towns. Yet another proposal is to allow the safety zone, but for Bridgeport to cede all lands abutting the airport to Stratford (thus giving Stratford more control around future expansion). I personally would like to see Stratford purchase the airport so it will fully control its fate, but I leave this to Mayors Finch and Miron to negotiate.

The purpose of my bill is to give the Mayors time to work out this comprehensive solution, rather than just have proponents and opponents of the expanded safety zone argue about that one narrow issue. My belief is that the Mayors are close, and that passing my bill will give them the time they need to finalize an agreement. With my bill, nothing will be forced on Sikorsky Airport by the FAA or DOT without permission from both Stratford and Bridgeport.

I urge the committee to pass SB-563.